

# 2024 AHL FOUNDATION

Saturday, November 2, 2024  
5:00-8:00 PM

Church Of The Holy Apostles  
296 9th Ave., New York, NY 10001

## 21ST ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA AND AWARDS CEREMONY

2605 Frederick Douglass Blvd., #C1, New York, NY 10030



## Gala Speakers



### MC | Yerin Jo

Danielle Yelin Jo is a seasoned UX researcher at Starbucks, blending creativity and technical expertise. She holds a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from Ewha Womans University (2014) and a master's in Human Centered Design and Engineering from the University of Washington (2021). Danielle's global experiences span Korea, Malaysia, Germany, Singapore, and the U.S. Alongside her professional career, she has showcased her versatile talents as a reporter for the JTBC TV show Talkpawon2si, an English-Korean translator for the G20 Seoul Summit, and as a host for prestigious events like the Seoul International Family Film Festival and the World Writer's Festival.



### Assemblymember Grace Lee

Assemblymember Grace Lee represents New York Assembly District 65 in Lower Manhattan, which includes the Financial District, Chinatown, and the Lower East Side. She is the first Korean American woman to serve in the New York Legislature and the co-chair of the Assembly's Asian Pacific American Task Force.

In her first term, Assemblymember Lee has had a standout legislative track record with historic achievements for the Asian community. She led the effort to pass legislation making New York the first state in the country to recognize Lunar New Year as a statewide school holiday (A7768), included an unprecedented \$30MM for nonprofits serving Asian New Yorkers in consecutive state budgets, passed the Hate Crimes Modernization Act to enhance New York's laws to address hate crimes (A8261), and passed the Stop Hiding Hate Act to hold social media companies accountable for preventing hate on their platforms (A6789). She is also the sponsor of the AANHPI Curriculum Bill, legislation mandating the instruction of Asian history in New York public schools (A6579).

Assemblymember Lee lives in Lower Manhattan with her husband and three young daughters. She received her BA from Columbia University and her MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.



### Music | Jihye Lee

Jihye Lee is a Korean-born, Brooklyn-based composer, arranger, and conductor. Jihye Lee possesses a highly personal, entertaining, and idiosyncratic knack for musical storytelling. Since 2017, she has released three orchestral albums, making significant waves in the jazz and classical music scenes of New York and beyond.

Her work has garnered numerous accolades including sought-after commissions, honors, awards, and residencies, including the NYU/CBA National Sawdust Toulmin Fellowship, BMI Foundation's Charlie Parker Jazz Composition Prize, the ASCAP Foundation/Symphonic Jazz Orchestra Commissioning Prize, and the Korean Music Award for Best Jazz Album of 2021. Her work has also graced prestigious stages like Jazz at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall's NYO Jazz, and the National Theatre of Korea, the Brazil C6 Festival, the Frankfurt hr-Big Band and more, all solidifying her reputation as a remarkable new trailblazer.

## Program

MC

Yerin Jo

<b>Reception and Silent Auction</b>	5:00 - 5:50 PM
<b>Opening Performance by Jihye Lee</b>	5:50 - 6:00 PM
<b>Keynote Speech</b>	6:00 - 6:10 PM
<b>Toast Ceremony and Cake cutting</b>	6:10 - 6:15 PM
<b>Dinner</b>	6:10 - 6:40 PM
<b>Music Performance by Jihye Lee</b>	6:40 - 6:50 PM
<b>Award Ceremony</b>	6:50 - 7:30 PM
<b>Announcement: Winners - Auction &amp; Raffle</b>	7:30 - 7:40 PM
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	7:40 - 7:50 PM
<b>Photoshoot (A) Presenters, Recipients, and Board Members</b>	7:50 - 8:00 PM
<b>Photoshoot (B) All Attendees</b>	

<b>Greetings</b>	Sook Nyu Lee Kim, President and Founder of AHL Foundation
<b>Keynote Speech</b>	Grace Lee, Assemblymember
<b>Toast Ceremony</b>	Professor John Pai, Artist and Advisor of AHL Foundation
<b>AHL-T&amp;W Visual Art Award</b>	Presenter: Mi Ji Kim, T&W Foundation Executive Director Recipients: Kyung-Me, John Chae, C.Ryu
<b>AHL-Andrew &amp; Barabra Choi Family Foundation Project Grant</b>	Presenter: Andrew Choi, Andrew & Barbara Choi Family Foundation President Recipient: Priscilla Jeong
<b>AHL-Chun Family Foundation Curatorial Fellowship and Open Call</b>	Presenter: Seiryun Chun, Chun Family Foundation Board of Directors Recipient: Sophia Park
<b>AHL- Grace Charity Foundation Research Fellowship</b>	Presenter: Jinsoo & Eunsil Kim, Grace Charity Foundation President Recipient: Taeyi Kim
<b>AHL-Kim Family Fund Research Fellowship</b>	Presenter: Myong Hi Kim, Kim Family Fund Founder Recipient: Hyunsoo Kim
<b>Ran Hwang - AKA General Operating Fund</b>	Presenter: Ran Hwang, Artist and the Winner of AHL Foundation's 1st Competition in 2024 Recipient: AHL Staff
<b>AHL - Founder Sook Nyu Lee Kim AHLumni Collective Grant</b>	Presenter: Sook Nyu Lee Kim Recipient: Sungho Choi (President of AHLumni Collective)
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	Young Sook Park, AHL Foundation Chairperson of the Board

Speical thanks to Professor Young Cheong for your support with the video production.



## Mission

AHL Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit arts organization established in 2003 by Sook Nyu Lee Kim to support artists of Korean heritage working in the United States and promote exposure of their work in today's highly competitive contemporary art world. Our mission is threefold: 1) to seek, identify and promote talented Korean and Korean-American artists active in the United States; 2) to provide the artists with a platform and resources to further develop their talents; and 3) to host educational, cultural, and artistic events with the goal of building wider public awareness of contemporary artists of Korean heritage. AHL Foundation seeks to accomplish its mission by promoting the work of emerging artists of Korean descent active in the United States through exhibitions, informing and educating artists on the business side of the art practice, and building a community of supporters and art enthusiasts. Our efforts focus on fostering an awareness of the artists and their work through hosting exhibitions, public art showings, artist studio visits, lectures, workshops, museum tours and art history courses. All of AHL's programs are open to the public.

## History

- 2002: Registered in New York State with an office in Northport, Long Island.
- 2003: Received 501(c)3 Tax Exemption Status; Founding members were Sook Nyu Lee Kim, Sung Mo Jung, Hyun Sun Kim, Eun Ja Kim, Thomas Yun, Mee Sang Jang, and Wolhee Choe.
- 2004: First Annual Competition Award Ceremony and Benefit Gala held.
- 2005: First Exhibition for Competition Winners held.
- 2007: Launched Studio Visit program.
- 2008: Launched Public Lecture Series, Art History Class, and Museum and Gallery Tour programs.
- 2009: Moved office to Chelsea, New York.
- 2010: Silent Auction held to raise funds for a Korean Contemporary Art Museum in New York.
- 2013: Launched Art in the Workplace program.  
International Artist Exchange Program and MFA Scholarship established.  
Archive of Korean Artists in America (AKAA) Project established.  
AHL – T&W Foundation Contemporary Visual Art Awards established.
- 2015: AHL – Jason J. Kim Grant, AHL – Andrew and Barbara Choi Family Foundation Grant, and AHL – Grace Charity Foundation Fellowship established.
- 2016: Launched AHL Forum.
- 2017: Launched AHL - Young Patrons' Circle.  
AHL - Chun Family Foundation Curatorial Fellowship and AHL - Wolhee Choe Memorial Art Writers Grant established.
- 2018: AHL Foundation Artist Fellowship (by Dow Kim Family Foundation) established.
- 2020: Held first ever virtual exhibitions and programs in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.  
AKAA Senior Research Fellowship established.
- 2021: Launched Online Mentoring Workshop Program.  
AKAA Kim Family Fund Research Fellowship established.
- 2022: Opened a gallery and archive room in West Harlem, New York.  
Launched Space Uptown exhibition project.  
Chun Family Foundation's Curatorial Open Call (Senior Fellowship) established.  
Ran Hwang - AKAA General Operating Fund established.
- 2023: Manna's Exhibition Grant established. AAW(Asian Art Works, Inc) Solo Exhibiton Grant established.  
Outdoor Gallery Wall created (Fund by Changboh Chee Foundation) in August 2023.  
Founder (Sook Nyu Lee Kim)'s Alumni Invitational established.

## **Board of Directors**

Sook Nyu Lee Kim, Founder & President  
Young Sook Park Chong, Chairperson of the Board  
Hyongnam Ahn  
Eunsil Cha  
Esther Kang  
Eunsil Seong Kim  
Sylvia (Minah) Kim  
Jung Hyang Kim  
Yeong Gill Kim  
Soon Jean Lee  
Mi Song Park  
Yooah Park  
Ock Hwa Sung

## **Advisors**

John Pai, Artist  
Eleanor Heartney, Art Critic  
Wonsook Kim, Artist

## **Education**

Jinyoung Koh, Ph.D., Lecturer (Art History Class)

## **Staff**

Jiyoung Lee, Director of Programs  
Michelle S. Cho, Grant Manager  
Gayoung Do, Graphic Designer  
Celine (Yunwon) Seo, Intern  
Sophie Kwon, Intern

## **Fellow**

Hyunsoo Alice Kim, Research Fellow (AKAA)  
Taeyi Kim, Research Fellow (AKAA)

## **Past Chairs of the Board**

Eun Young Kang  
Eunae Ryu  
Daru Jung Hyang Kim

## Greetings from Our President



Hello, It's a pleasure to see you all. It feels like just yesterday when I gave a similar greeting, and yet another year has flown by so quickly.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the awardees who have worked tirelessly and passionately to create exceptional artworks and to contribute to the development of the art world in various fields. I also extend a big round of applause and sincere thanks to the patrons who have supported them. The names of the awardees and patrons are listed in the program booklet, so I invite them to stand and receive the recognition and joy they deserve.

Today, I am excited to share with you some wonderful news about the Foundation. Our awardees have formed the "AHLUMNI Collectives," a group that will foster communication and mutual support among artists, and will play a key role in the future growth of AHL Foundation.

There's another good news. We have finally installed a mural on the exterior wall of our foundation building, a project we had been planning since the day we purchased the space in spring 2022.

Thanks to the support of the late Professor Changboh Chee's Foundation, the mural frame was completed, and the fund for the first mural installation was raised through the efforts of Chairperson Young Sook Park. The display will showcase artworks that reflect the political, social, and cultural landscape we live in today. Our area already features several notable murals, and I believe this location has the potential to become a renowned mural destination. We are very proud to carry out this program.

In addition, this year we compiled interviews conducted from 2016 to 2023 into a major publication, AKA Interview Series. This book contains interviews with 40 prominent Korean contemporary artists across generations, preserving the words and stories of the Korean artist diaspora in America.

I am pleased to announce that we have received the AAPI Community Development Fund. Through this fund, Asian women artists will have the opportunity to discuss issues of gender and social justice, create collaborative works, and hold workshops. We hope to continue strengthening our ties with the Asian American community in the years to come.

However, alongside the good news, there is a thoughtful update to share. The Wolhee Choe Memorial Art Writing Program, which we have been honored to run, has come to its conclusion this year. Over the years, we have awarded five artists, and we are now considering publishing a collection of their writings to continue the program's legacy. While this particular fund has reached its end, the foundation deeply values its contributions and sincerely hopes to revive the program in the future.

I want to express my deep gratitude to all of you who have joined us today, to our board members, staff, and volunteers who have worked hard to make this event possible. We ask for your continued love and support for the growth of AHL Foundation.

I hope you have a wonderful time tonight.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sook Nyu Lee Kim". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sook Nyu Lee Kim  
President and Founder  
AHL Foundation

안녕하세요?

뵙게 되어 반갑습니다. 같은 인사말을 한 게 엇그제 같은데 벌써 1년이 휙 지나갔습니다.

좋은 작품을 위해 고뇌하고, 열심히 미술계의 발전을 위해 각 분야에서 노력하시는 수상자 여러분께 진심으로 감사의 말씀을 드립니다. 또한 그들을 후원해주신 후원자님들께 큰 박수와 함께 감사의 마음을 전합니다. 수상자님들과 후원자님들 명단은 프로그램 순서지에 기재되어 있으니, 모두 일어나셔서 박수를 받으시고 기쁨을 만끽하시기 바랍니다.

오늘 여러분과 함께 나누고 싶은 재단의 새로운 기쁜 소식은 알재단 수상자들의 “AHLumi Collective” 모임이 형성된 것입니다. 작가들 간의 소통과 더불어 서로에게 힘이 되고, 알재단의 미래 발전에 한 몫을 담당할 모임이 될 것으로 기대합니다.

또 다른 기쁜 소식도 있습니다. 2022년 봄 재단 공간을 구입하게 된 바로 그 날 부터 계획했던 재단 밖의 벽에 벽화설치를 하게 되었습니다. 작고하신 지창보 교수님의 재단(Changboh Chee Foundation)의 후원으로 프레임이 완성되었고, 첫 벽화작품 설치를 위한 기금 또한 박영숙 이사장님의 수고로 조성되었습니다. 디스플레이에는 현재 우리가 살고 있는 정치적, 사회적, 문화적 특색을 반영하는 작가들의 작품이 전시될 예정입니다. 재단이 위치한 이 지역은 벽화가 비교적 많이 눈에 띄는 곳으로, 앞으로 벽화의 명소로 발전할 가능성이 크다고 생각합니다. 이 프로그램을 진행할 수 있게 되어 매우 자랑스럽습니다.

올해 드디어 그간 인터뷰를 모아, AKAA 인터뷰 시리즈를 출판하게 되었습니다. 이 책에는 2016년부터 2023년까지 진행된, 여러 세대를 아우르는 40명의 한국 현대 미술 작가들과의 인터뷰가 담겨 있습니다. 이를 통해 미국 내 한국 작가들의 이야기가 기록되고 보존되었으며, 연구 자료로도 중요한 가치를 지닙니다.

AAPI(Asian American and Pacific Islander) Community Development Fund 를 받게 되었습니다 이 기금을 통해 아시안 여성 작가들이 함께 젠더, 사회 정의 이슈들을 논의하며 작업을 만들고 워크숍을 진행할 수 있게 되었습니다. 앞으로도 계속해서 아시안 아메리칸과의 연대를 이어갈 수 있길 바랍니다.

기쁜 소식도 있지만, 안타까운 소식도 하나 있습니다. 그동안 진행해 오던 Wolhee Choe Memorial Art Writing Program이 올해로 마지막을 맞이했습니다. 그동안 5명의 작가에게 지원금을 수여했고, 앞으로 그분들의 글을 모아 책으로 발간하는 것도 좋은 방법이라 생각합니다. 이 기금이 지속되지 못한 점이 매우 아쉽습니다. 재단으로서는 이 프로그램이 다시 이어지길 간절히 바랍니다..

오늘 이 자리에 참석해주신 모든 분들, 그리고 이 행사를 위해 노력해주신 이사님들, 직원분들, 자원봉사자 분들께 진심으로 감사드립니다. 앞으로도 알재단의 발전과 활발한 미션 수행을 위해 지속적인 사랑과 관심 부탁드립니다.

즐거운 시간 되시길 바랍니다.

회장 이숙녀  
알재단

## Congratulatory Note



Message from Michael Cheonsoo Kim

I am honored to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the AHL Foundation on the occasion of its 21st Annual Benefit Gala & Awards Ceremony. It gives me great pleasure to offer my warm regards to the distinguished Board of Directors, the talented artists being celebrated, and all those gathered to support the vital work of this organization.

The AHL Foundation continues to play a pivotal role in fostering and championing Korean and Korean-American artists. Its dedication to bringing these artists' visions and creativity to the forefront of the global art scene in New York City is truly inspiring.

As we move forward into the coming year, the Korean Cultural Center New York looks forward to continuing our collaboration with the AHL Foundation, creating opportunities for our artistic community to thrive and share the richness of our culture with the world.

My deepest gratitude goes to the AHL Foundation, especially to Director Sook Nyu Kim, whose tireless efforts have been instrumental in advancing the recognition of our artists. I offer my best wishes for continued success in all the foundation's endeavors, and I thank you for your unwavering support of Korean art and culture.

Michael Cheonsoo Kim  
*Executive Director*  
*Korean Cultural Center New York*

## AHL Award, Grant and Fellowship Opportunities in 2025

### **AHL - T&W Foundation Contemporary Visual Art Award**

**Gold Prize: \$5,000 / Silver Prize: \$4,000 / Bronze Prize: \$3,000**

The AHL-T&W Foundation Contemporary Visual Art Awards support young emerging contemporary artists of Korean descent active in the United States and promote exposure of their work in today's highly competitive contemporary art world.

### **AHL - Grace Charity Foundation Research Fellowship | \$5,000**

This fellowship is an annual one-year fellowship open to art historians, researchers, and curators with an interest in researching and archiving the activities of artists of Korean heritage. The selected fellow will contribute to the development of the Archive of Korean Artists in America (AKAA) as part of the AHL Foundation's mission to recognize and support the accomplishments of talented Korean artists working in the United States.

### **AHL - Andrew & Barbara Choi Family Foundation Project Grant | \$5,000**

The AHL-Andrew & Barbara Choi Family Grant is an annual project grant awarded to recognize and support the accomplishments of a talented artist of Korean heritage working in the United States. This grant aims to nurture and assist talented visual artists of all career stages in realizing forthcoming projects while building their capacity to sustain productive long-term careers.

### **AHL - Kim Family Fund AKAA Research Fellowship | \$5,000**

The AHL - Kim Family Fund Research Fellowship is an annual one-year fellowship open to art historians, researchers, and curators with an interest in researching and archiving the activities of artists of Korean heritage. The selected fellow will contribute to the development of the Archive of Korean Artists in America (AKAA) as part of the AHL Foundation's mission to recognize and support the accomplishments of talented Korean artists working in the United States.

### **AHL - Chun Family Foundation Curatorial Fellowship Open Call | \$5,000**

This program offers a \$5,000 stipend to curators of Korean heritage. This initiative aligns with the AHL Foundation's mission to encourage curatorial research in contemporary Korean art and promote diversity within the curatorial field. The curator selected through this open call will present their exhibition at the AHL Foundation Gallery.

### **Mannas Exhibition Grant: SPACE UPTOWN 2025 | \$5,000**

Supported by Manna's soul food restaurant in Harlem, Space Uptown is a collaborative exhibition project inviting artists from Harlem and New York City. Emerging and mid-career artists are invited to submit their work for consideration in the group exhibition. Selected artists will have the opportunity to showcase their works at AHL Foundation's gallery in Spring 2025.

### **AHL - Founder Sook Nyu Lee Kim AHLumni Collective Grant | \$5,000**

Open to all AHL alumni artists. Selected artist(s) will have the opportunity to curate a solo or group exhibition at the AHL Foundation gallery. The AHLumni Collective aims to foster a supportive community and empower alumni artists by promoting the exchange of ideas, offering resources, and providing opportunities for collaboration and exhibitions. The collective is always open to any alumni interested in joining and participating in our monthly meetings.

## Head Juror’s Statement on the 2024 AHL - T&W Foundation Contemporary Visual Art Award Winners



The three selected finalists for this year’s AHL T&W prize each demonstrate, in unique ways, how obfuscation can be used as an artistic tool to counterintuitively reveal something about the nature of identity and its relationship to the real. They each prompt us to think of obscurity not as we habitually understand it—as the making-unclear of something that should otherwise be legible or sensible—but instead as a productive mode of creativity; a means to forge new, oblique approaches to making meaning. In a moment when mass cultural production tends to lean heavily toward the diaristic and self-revealing—when everything is so overly expository—Kyung-Me, John Chae, and C. Ryu each create work that resonates for a smart and refreshing willingness to not simply “reveal”, but to lean into unknowability by devising visual and conceptual languages of mis-recognition. At the same time, Kyung-Me, John Chae, and C. Ryu each engage in rich and challenging ways with art’s history, particularly with the limits of how an image can be used to create meaning.

Kyung-Me creates meticulously rendered ink and charcoal drawings depicting strange and often dreamlike architectural interiors. These compositions are double-edged, verging between trapping and entrapment. Kyung-Me’s figures are as subject to the alienating procedures of symbolization as the architectural spaces they inhabit. *The Mother* (2022), for example, features a dead-centered figure, seen from behind, who stands before a mirrored dresser that creates a *mise-en-abyme* of her own image. These kinds of doublings, reflections, and echos recur throughout Kyung-Me’s drawings; the figures and objects that populate her surreal spaces become intertwined with the symbolic language of perspective and the compositional grids they inhabit or interrupt. Rather than placing an object or figure directly over her compositions’ central vanishing point, as Renaissance painters often did—frequently as a way to guide the viewer’s eye to said figure and to thereby emphasize their narrative importance—Kyung-Me allows her voids to be voids, and in some cases, figures are entirely absent, as in the straight-on view into a receding abyss of a hallway in the drawings titled *The Corridor* (2023 and 2024). Her objects seem not so much to fill the space they inhabit as to float on the surface of her carefully constructed spatial grids, reinforcing her compositions’ constructed nature.

If Kyung-Me’s work hinges on the relationship between the figurative and the symbolic, feeding both through a spatial grid of estrangement, John Chae’s work instead plays with cliché. Chae’s work is informed by the idea of “autochthonophilia,” which describes the settler colonist’s desire for and identification with the indigenous culture of an occupied land. For Chae, this procedure of corrupted nostalgia becomes a rich ground from which to explore his own identity as a second-generation Korean American. His oil-on-linen *Western Paintings* (2022), for example, hint at the aesthetics of kitschy thrift store painting, reprising imagery imbued with a romanticized connection to the American West: cowboys, horses, quilts, desert landscapes, and so on. The series is simultaneously intertwined with Chae’s interest in the work of the Italian Jesuit missionary Guiseppe Castiglione, who served as an imperial court painter for three successive emperors of the Qing Dynasty in eighteenth century China, and whose paintings were intended to both suit the stylistic tastes of the Qing court and to convert the same audience to the artist’s own Catholic faith. Some of Chae’s *Western Paintings* are copies of Castiglione’s works. Chae’s paintings stylistically suggest the layers of history and reference they have been filtered through; they are rendered in diaphanous layers, as if sun-bleached.

Of these three artists, C. Ryu perhaps produces the most counterintuitively “obscured” work, created using an Axis Q-19 thermal surveillance camera. As a medium for visualizing the self, body temperature is somewhat contradictory: every body rests at 98.6 degrees, which means, in theory, that every person’s body appears the same way to a thermal camera. Is your body heat part of you, or just a trace you leave behind? To what uses might its index of bodily presence be put? For Ryu, this becomes a question of the body’s legibility as a carrier of cultural and familial descent. *lost | born in translation* (2022–23) is a 25-minute, three-channel video divided into three parts, each titled with a purposeful mis-translation from a Korean phrase and each accompanied by the voice of a different narrator. The video installation’s imagery emphasizes aspects of the artist’s body that are considered taboo or shameful in contemporary Korean culture: female narcissism, menstruation, and nudity. The film’s three-part narration draws parallel between these taboo images of the body and voices that have been silenced in the national and migrational history of Korea. Yoo does not romanticize these stories and histories, but critiques the nostalgia attached to them by confronting them with her own body’s thermal presence.

Kyung-Me and Chae both work in media that could be described as largely “traditional,” but inflected with “perspectives” (using the term figuratively in regard to Chae and literally in regard to Kyung-Me) that upend the expectations of those media. Kyung-Me uses linear perspective not to depict real places with naturalistic accuracy, but instead to enhance the strangeness of her compositions; fidelity to the proportions of actual space, in other words, becomes a false signal of the replication of the real, goading the viewer to mentally enter her complex mind-palaces. Though carried out via familiar media, Chae’s work in painting and dyed textiles is produced in highly unconventional, experimental ways; for example, the installation *A Dark and Bloody Ground* (2023), for which Chae turned AI generated landscapes into cyanotypes that were then printed on patchwork canvases. Chae short-circuits the route from image to meaning, strategically deploying cliché and remixing traditional media techniques to invest his work with layers of complex historical and cultural meaning. It is arguably presence, meanwhile, that Ryu’s work most forcefully insists on; though that presence arrives via layers of abstraction or mediation that remind us that representation is always highly contingent and imperfect.

Through distinct methods and media, Kyung-Me, John Chae, and C.Ryu each recognize that “recognition” is itself a fraught thing. What do our internal worlds look like? What happens when they are confronted with, and attempt to coalesce with, an exterior reality? How do we grapple with being perceived when perception is always colored by cultural expectations and beliefs? Through these artists’ works, we are able to begin to see the ways that these questions intersect with the experiences of immigration, cultural assimilation, being in diaspora, surveillance, and alienation; some of the most pressing social issues of our time.

Ian Wallace  
Associate Curator, Amant

#### Jurors for the 2024 AHL - T&W Foundation Contemporary Visual Art Awards

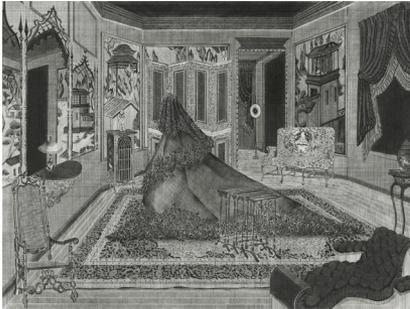
**Ian Wallace**  
Associate Curator at Amant

**Jeffrey Lee**  
Partner at RYAN LEE Gallery

**Julianne Miao**  
Assistant Curator at the Nasher Museum  
of Art at Duke University

## Jurors' Comments

### 2024 AHL - T&W Foundation Contemporary Visual Art Award Winners



**Kyung-Me (Gold Prize)**

*Half-Mourning* (18 x 24 inches, ink and charcoal on paper), 2018

**Kyung-Me's** fantastic drawings are original, technically proficient and mesmerizing for their virtuosity while evoking the sense of confinement, suffering, enclosure and stillness. The works are quite psychological and haunting yet there is also a sense of transcendence through her meticulous compositions. Her style of drawings feels very distinctive yet referential and her tight practice feels both very personal as well as mythological and allegorical. Works like *Papillion de Nuit* has an eerie stillness, yet also a disquietingly energy stemming from the arrangement of the interior space. Her use of repetition through reflection like one was in a hall of mirrors as well as surrealist spaces create a sense of disorientation and mystery. One can get lost in her compositions.

- Jeffrey Lee

Kyung-Me's masterful skill in drawing is evident in her intricate and detailed depictions of constructed and fantastical spaces. These interiors are blends of traditional Korean design with seamless nods to Western aesthetics and architecture. In these drawings, Kyung-Me traps figures in mourning, in a wedding, or dancing in tightly detailed rooms. Extravagant furniture decorates the rooms with lone or multiplied figures. Through this practice, she draws on the culture of suffering valued in Korean culture, giving these figures and us, the viewers, no way to escape. The narratives become hard to decipher and create dreamlike and almost surrealist pictures. In this way, these closed spaces become labyrinths to explore themes of obsession, shame, and heritage.

- Julianne Miao



**John Hee Taek Chae (Silver Award)**

*Energetic Maps*, 2023, Oil and acrylic on dyed linen and canvas, Installation

**John Chae** has a multi-disciplinary practice that explores both historical and personal narratives, including his childhood as an immigrant and a student at an American Missionary School in Korea. Exploring all aspects of his personal history, including the ideologies of Christian faith in the contemporary art discourse is rare and courageous. His room installations force viewers to see, frame, connect fragments of his history. His work uses an incredible range of materials, using many methods of image making and layering them as a metaphor for his own multi-faceted history. His most recent work, *A Dark and Bloody Ground*, is an installation that has a rigid architectural form yet by printing images on silk or linen, it creates a translucency that is very poetic. The layering of images allows for a non-linear viewing of his work.

- Jeffrey Lee

John Chae's diverse and robust practice reveals how stories about his heritage, histories of settler-colonialism, and the emotional stakes of immigration are entangled. His work weaves together dyed fabrics, screenprints, and cyanotypes with historic Western imagery. For example, his series *A Dark and Bloody Ground* consider the landscapes of Americans artists that served the goals of Manifest Destiny. Glimpses of lush trees with clear streams are littered through the patchy stitching of mismatched fabrics, forming a haunting juxtaposition. His installations ask viewers to consider the entirety of the built environment. Each individual work is often built from fragments extracted from fragmented works. As a result, the narratives told through his painted, dyed, embroidered, and printed panels become layered and tangled—impossible to separate the history of self and land.

- Julianne Miao



**C. Ryu (Bronze Award)**

*lost | born in translation*, 2022-2023, New Media Installation

**C.Ryu** is a primarily video artist that celebrates women through research of Korean folklore and mythology as well as her own family history to celebrate and recognize women in a deeply patriarchal society. She is uncovering the ghosts of her past to liberate her own sense of self in videos such as *lost|born in translation* where she recently discovered her grandmother's accomplishments such as being a published writer and expert in Korean opera. Her grandmother's achievements were buried like so many of the stories of women in Korea and through her researched, she uncovers their stories in her haunting videos. She uses lo-fi renderings like thermals scans to give presence to women and deny any possibilities of an objectified viewing of them. Her works are unabashedly feminist through a Korean perspective.

- Jeffrey Lee

Through her installations and video work, C.Ryu unveils archives of Korean feminist history through the practice of ghost hunting. These ghosts take the form of forgotten, nameless, or ignored women. In her recent work *lost | born in translation* (2022—2023), she unearths and channels Mago 마고, the goddess of creation who has been historically overshadowed by patriarchal counterparts. Through a séance, she utilizes Korean-to-English translation to trace the ghosts of Korean history. The concept is both innovative and familiar, as she employs sound and aesthetics reminiscent of the satanic panic to heighten the atmosphere. She both challenges and affirms the historicized and contemporary sexualized perceptions of Asian women through the same infrared technology where she, in the silhouette of a ghost, offers her menstruating body to be seen, consumed, and witnessed as a breathing, bleeding entity.

- Julianne Miao

## Notes from the 2024 AHL - T&W Foundation Contemporary Visual Art Award Winners

### AHL - T&W Foundation Contemporary Visual Art Awards

Established in 2003, the Contemporary Visual Art Awards is an annual competition open to all contemporary artists of Korean descent active in the United States and is part of AHL Foundation's core program. The awards recognize the work of exemplary emerging contemporary artists of Korean descent and provide them with a monetary prize and the opportunity to have their work presented at a group exhibition in New York. Since 2016, the award has been generously supported by the T&W Foundation, established by Wonsook Kim and Thomas Park Clement.



#### Kyung-Me, Gold Award

Thank you so much to the AHL Foundation for the recognition and support of my work. It is wonderful that there is a foundation here in New York dedicated to bolstering the work of Korean artists. I am very happy and honored to be included in the exhibition alongside the other awardees.



#### John Hee Taek Chae, Silver Award

Thank you to Ian Wallace, Jeffrey Lee, Julianne Miao, and the AHL Foundation for this award. Being part of such a long list of exceptional artists is an honor. My Korean American identity has played a central role in my practice, so it means a lot to be considered representative of the exemplary talent that exists in our community. This award is a significant achievement, and I'm grateful for the financial support it will provide for my work. I'm looking forward to seeing the positive impact this award will have on all the recipients here today. I hope to build on its impact to support this legacy and the future of Korean and Korean American talent.



#### C. Ryu, Bronze Award

I am grateful for the AHL Visual Arts Award, to use this package to continue producing my work *Alice & Alice: in free fall* (2023-ongoing). Inspired by Alice Hyun, the first Korean American born in Hawaii in 1903, Alice lived most of her life while Korea was under Japanese colonization. The radical pioneer devoted her life to independence, believing in one-nation Korea, and enrolled in the USA military as a linguist during World War II. In a turn of events, Hyun was named a double agent for North Korea. Despite her incredibly high-stakes life, the independence fighter's legacy is absent from mainstream histories. *Alice and Alice* conflates fiction with history, interweaving narratives of Alice in Wonderland with the archives of Alice Hyun. This work asks what histories are too hot to be historicized? I am extremely excited to pursue the rest of this film, which I hope will debut by 2025!

*Photo Credit: Audrey Medrano*

## Notes from 2024 Grant Recipients

### AHL - Andrew & Barbara Choi Family Foundation Project Grant

The AHL–Andrew & Barbara Choi Family Grant is an annual project grant awarded to recognize and support the accomplishments of a talented artist of Korean heritage working in the United States. This grant aims to nurture and assist talented visual artists of all career stages in realizing forthcoming projects while building their capacity to sustain productive long-term careers. The main purpose of the grant is to support the artist’s creative process and to cultivate innovative and challenging work during key moments in the development of the artist’s career.



#### Priscilla Jeong

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude to Andrew and Barbara Choi Family Foundation and AHL Foundation for their support and granting this award.

I would also like to acknowledge those who supported me, my family, friends, curators, and mentors throughout the fruition of the project presented at Leeum Museum of Art in Seoul, Korea. This grant supported realizing the maquette of the artwork which was a crucial phase to reach the finalization of such a large scale work to ensure the structural safety.

2024 Art Spectrum, *Dream Screen*, 2024. Photo: Seo O Jeon, Courtesy Leeum Museum of Art

### Wolhee Choe Writers Grant

The AHL–Wolhee Choe Memorial Art Writers Grant supports both emerging and established writers who are writing about contemporary visual art, particularly related to artists of Korean heritage. The goal of the grant program is to support the publication of new writings related to the contemporary art of the Korean diaspora by enabling recipients to set aside time to write, research or travel. The AHL–Wolhee Choe Memorial Art Writers Grant was established in memory of the late writer Wolhee Choe, Professor Emeritus at NYU’s Tandon School of Engineering’s Department of Technology, Culture and Society.



#### Jeesook Beck

I am deeply honored to receive the AHL–Wolhee Choe Memorial Art Writers Grant. My writing project is dedicated to revisiting the legacy of the late artist Tchah-Sup Kim, who passed away in 2022, by organizing and interpreting his approximately 150 notebooks related to his artworks. This project aims to explore how his words, writings, and drawings can continue to resonate with contemporary culture and be reconstructed as a living archive. It holds profound personal significance, as it highlights the contributions of Korean avant-garde artists of the 1970s and the work of Korean artists in New York, through Kim’s notes recorded during his time living between SoHo, New York, and Napyungri, Korea. I hope this endeavor will provide new insights into Tchah-Sup Kim’s unique artistic vision, which sought to transcend national boundaries.

### **AHL - Chun Family Foundation Curatorial Fellowship Open Call**

Founded in 2007 by businessman Chun Myung-guk, the Chun Family Foundation has awarded scholarships to over ten Korean students annually. Chairman Chun Myung-guk is actively engaged in philanthropic work throughout the Korean community, as well as in scholarship projects to support students. Since 2017, the AHL Foundation has selected curatorial fellows with the support of the Chun Family Foundation, providing grants and nurturing Korean exhibition planners. In 2024, the AHL Foundation and the Chun Family Foundation launched the Curatorial Open Call grant through a direct sponsorship agreement. Curators selected for the Curatorial Open Call grant will have the opportunity to curate exhibitions at the AHL Foundation Gallery.



#### **Sophia Park**

I am grateful for the opportunities that the AHL Foundation has created for the contemporary arts and culture sector, especially for those of Korea and the diaspora. This year, I'm especially thankful for the opportunity to work on an exhibition through the AHL-Chun Family Foundation Open Call. There are numerous contemporary artists who are working on exciting projects that examine the role of histories, memories, and feelings in our everyday lives that impact the ways we think about collectivity and togetherness. As the curatorial field expands and experiments with new forms of exhibition making and gathering, I hope to continue to explore the ways in which art impacts the ways that we navigate the world at large. I am thankful for the AHL-Chun Family Foundation's critical support in this exploration. I look forward to seeing how AHL Foundation's diverse programs continue to foster a robust ecosystem of arts practitioners so that we can continue to create meaningful art experiences for our communities.

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Ran Hwang

AAPI Community  
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## Notes from 2024 Fellowship Recipients

### AHL - Grace Charity Foundation Research Fellowship

The AHL–Grace Charity Foundation Research Fellowship is an annual one-year fellowship open to art historians, researchers, and curators with an interest in researching and archiving the activities of artists of Korean heritage. The selected fellow will contribute to the development of the Archive of Korean Artists in America (AKAA) as part of the AHL Foundation’s mission to recognize and support the accomplishments of talented Korean artists working in the United States.



#### Taeyi Kim

I’m excited and deeply grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the development of AAKA and the overall programs of the AHL Foundation through the AHL - Grace Charity Foundation Research Fellowship. Researching and publishing on emerging or underrecognized Korean and Korean diasporic artists has been a longstanding passion of mine. Over the past few decades, Korean artists in the U.S. have carved out a distinct cultural identity, and I’m eager to explore their unique perspectives on the world, their absorption of visual culture, and their expression through a nuanced visual syntax. With a firm belief in the transformative power of art, I look forward to advancing the mission of AAKA and helping bring these untold stories to light.

### AHL - Kim Family Fund Senior Research Fellowship

The Senior Research Fellowship provides fund to conduct in-depth research on the Archive of Korean Artists in America (AKAA). Established in 2020 with the support of Korean-American artists, the fellowship has been funded since 2021 by the Kim Family Fund, founded by renowned artists Tchah Sup Kim and Myong Hi Kim. The selected Senior Fellow will collect materials related to Korean contemporary artists active in the U.S. and conduct research to further expand the AKAA collection and digital archive.



#### Hyunsoo Kim

My continuing fellowships from the AHL Foundation are an honor and a privilege. The AKAA digital archive is already a comprehensive repository of works and biographical information. It features an extensive collection of multimedia content, including interviews, rare manuscripts, and exhibition images. As it continues to grow, it aims to become the definitive resource for Korean contemporary art in the U.S. It is my pleasure to continue documenting Korean contemporary artists living and working in this country and to expand the AKAA digital archive even further.



A modern take on makgeolli, a traditional Korean alcohol, Makku is a lightly sparkling brew made from rice. Makku has a smooth and creamy body with soft bubbles and a hint of sweetness. Makku is brewed in South Korea and is gluten-free and vegan, with 6% alcohol. Available in 4 flavors: Original, Mango, Blueberry and Passion Fruit. Follow us @drinkmakku or shop Makku at [www.drinksool.com](http://www.drinksool.com)

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# 2024 Gala Fundraising Silent Auction

Taihwa Goh | Heejung Cho | Mison Kim | Kira Nam Greene | Jiyoun Lee-Lodge | Suzy Taekyung Kim | Kakyoung Lee | Hong Seon Jang | Christine Seo | Hongbin Kim | Soeun Bae | Mija Jung | Hye Kyung Cho | Sei Ryun Chun | Bong Jung Kim | Kim Ho Bong | Nam Joo Kim | Seongmin Ahn | Daru Jung Hyang Kim | Hyong Nam Ahn



## Taihwa Goh

*A Big Piece of Good Luck, 2024*

Screen print on Pellon, wood, copper leaf

Set Price: \$750

Starting Bid: \$600



## Heejung Cho

*Brooklyn Houses, 2023*

Oil Pigment and Paper

15" x 19"

Set Price: \$650

Starting Bid: \$520



## Heejung Cho

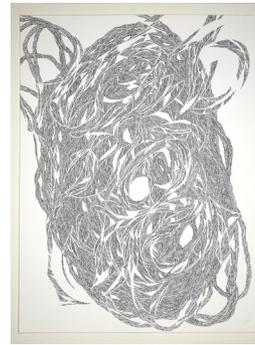
*Sidewalk, 2023*

16" x 20"

Oil Pigment and Paper

Set Price: \$650

Starting Bid: \$520



## Mison Kim

*The Last Gasp, 2010*

20" x 15"

Ink on Paper

Set Price: \$5000

Starting Bid: \$4000



**Kira Nam Greene**

*Bitter Melon (Preparatory drawing for MTA Subway art installation), 2024*

Watercolor on paper

Set Price: \$2000

Starting Bid: \$1600



**Jiyoun Lee-Lodge**

*Waterman-in-thought-#1, 2023*

18" x 12"

Set Price: \$750

Starting Bid: \$600



**Suzy Taekyung Kim**

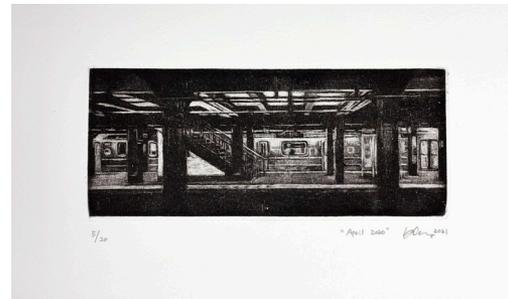
*Cream Puff, 2024*

18" diameter

Acrylic, mother of pearl, mica, various genuine gold on wood panel

Set Price: \$2400

Starting Bid: \$1920



**Kakyoung Lee**

*April 2020, 2021*

Image: 2 1/4" x 5 3/4", Paper: 7" x 9"

Mezzotint on BFK natural white in an Edition of 20

Set Price: \$500

Starting Bid: \$450



**Hong Seon Jang**

*Prayer, 2023*

8" x 10"

Set Price: \$800

Starting Bid: \$640



**Christine Seo**

*I and my shadow/painting image, 2024*

15" x 22"

Watercolor on the watercolor paper, cold pressed 300lb

Set Price: \$1600

Starting Bid: \$1280



**Hongbin Kim**

*MAYFLY 23-01-59 Box Series, 2023*

10" X 10"

Acrylic on canvas and Paper case

Set Price: \$400

Starting Bid: \$320



**Hongbin Kim**

*MAYFLY 23-01-62 Box Series, 2023*

10" X 10"

Acrylic on canvas and Paper case

Set Price: \$400

Starting Bid: \$320



**Hongbin Kim**

*MAYFLY 23-01-63 Box Series, 2023*  
10" X 10"

Acrylic on canvas and Paper case  
Set Price: \$400  
Starting Bid: \$320



**Hongbin Kim**

*MAYFLY 23-01-69 Box Series, 2023*  
10" X 10"

Acrylic on canvas and Paper case  
Set Price: \$400  
Starting Bid: \$320



**Soeun Bae**

*System Function Diagram, 2023*  
10" x 8"

Digital print on aluminum  
Set Price: \$900  
Starting Bid: \$720



**Mija Jung**

*Matchsticks, 2022*  
16" x 20"

Acrylic on canvas  
Set Price: \$350  
Starting Bid: \$280



**Hye Kyung Cho**

*The road not taken, 2024*

24" x 18"

Set Price: \$600

Starting Bid: \$480



**Sei Ryun Chun**

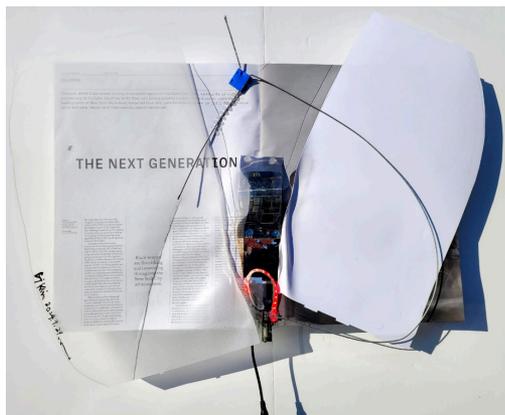
*Milky Way installation Series, 2020*

20" diameter

Mixed Media Wood on Acrylic paint, Tea dyed Hanji  
Korean Cotton Thread

Set Price: \$1500

Starting Bid: \$1200



**Bong Jung Kim**

*Harmony, 2024*

22" x 28"

Mixed Media on Paper

Set Price: \$2600

Starting Bid: \$2080



**Kim Ho Bong**

*Stopped Time, 2017*

12" x 24"

Digital print on acrylic panel

Set Price: \$1000

Starting Bid: \$800



**Nam Joo Kim**

*Angels*, 2024

10" x 10"

Set Price: \$500/each

Starting Bid: \$400



**Seongmin Ahn**

*Peony\_07*, 2022

18" x 13" diameter

Ink, pigment, wash and resin on wood

Set Price: \$2500

Starting Bid: \$2000



**Daru Jung Hyang Kim**

*Dizzying Full Bloom*

18" x 26"

Mixed medium on archival paper

Set Price: \$2800

Starting Bid: \$2240



**Hyong Nam Ahn**

*Unconditional Love drawing series*, 2018

16" x 14"

Color Pencil, Permanent Marker, Ink

Set Price: \$2000

Starting Bid: \$1600

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## Previous Grant / Award / Fellowship Recipients

### AHL – T&W Foundation Contemporary Visual Art Awards (Formerly AHL Visual Art Competition)

2004 Hyun Jean Lee Ran Hwang Jeong Han Kim Jung Su Han	2012 Hong Seon Jang Jung Sun Kim Seung Jae Kim Grace Kim	2021 Jin Yong Choi Areum Yang Jiwon Rhie
2005 Seok Hee Jung Sung Ho Choi Jaye Rhee Aegi Park	2013 Seong-min Ahn Inmi Lee Young-mi Song Jang soon Im	2022 Priscilla Jeong Kyuri Jeon Sun You
2006 Suk Won Shin Haegeen Kim Dooeol Lee Sang Woo Koh	2014 kate hers RHEE John Seung-Hwan Lee Yusam Sung Sang-Mi Yoo	2023 Soeun Bae Dana Davenport Mija Jung
2007 Hae Ri Yoo Kyung Woo Han Jia Lim Shin Il Kim	2015 Eunsook Lee Buhm Hong Yoosamu Heelim Hwang	<b>Scholarship</b> 2012 Yusam Sung Eunice Koo Seung Yeon Huh
2008 Zaun Lee Jane Jin Kaisen Eun Hyung Kim Jong Il Ma	2016 Ji Yeon Lim (Yaloo) Kira Nam Greene Soi Park	2013 Eun Sun Choi Meeson Pae Yang Sung B. Lee
2009 Jinkee Choi Kakyoung Lee Jaye Moon Jarrett Min Davis Yeon Jin Kim Jeong Hyun Lee	2017 Tai Hwa Goh Xavier Cha Joo Yeon Woo	2014 Nari Kim Elizabeth T. Lewin Yenim Jenny Park
2010 Ji Eun Kim Eun Jung Hwang Heejung Cho Keosang Yoo Ha Lee	2018 Valery Jung Estabrook Hyunjung Rhee Myung Gyun You	<b>AHL Foundation Project Grant (Previously AHL- Jason J. Kim Grant)</b> 2015 Nancy Hwang, Jaye Rhee 2017 Ran Hwang 2019 Kate-hers RHEE
2011 Sung Rok Choi Jee Young Lee Sandra Eula Lee Seungwook Sim Jiyoun Lee-Lodge Jonggeun Lee Kiseok Kim	2019 Jennifer Moon Jean Oh Mary Laube	<b>AHL Wolhee Choe Art Writer Grant</b> 2017 Jennifer Hope Choi 2018 Paul Laster 2020 Sun Young Lee 2021 Yunlee Hong 2023 Jeesook Beck
	2020 A young Yu Chang-Jin Lee Cheon pyo Lee	

### AHL Foundation Artist Fellowship

2019 Dayeon Kim, Judy Junghee Koo Woojin Lee, ChaeWon Moon
2020 Mookwon Han, Sungjae Lee Yi Sa-Ra, Jayoung Yoon
2021 Heehyun Choi, Gyun Hur, Dohee Lee, Yozmit
2022 Suhyun Choi, Jae Hwan Lim, Ken Gun Min, Kayla Tange

### Andrew & Barbara Choi Family Project Grant

2017 Xavier Cha
2018 Sun You
2019 Sunhee Kim Jung
2020 Aram Han Sifuentes
2021 Mina Cheon
2022 Mizin Shin
2023 Mire Lee

### AHL – Chun Family Foundation Curatorial Fellowship & Open Call

2017 Jinkyoung Choi
2018 Hye Seong Tae
2019 Jeon Young
2020 Dahye Kim
2021 Jiyoung Lee
2022 Katie Yook, Jiyoung Lee
2023 Joyce Chung

### AHL – Grace Charity Foundation Research Fellowship

2015 Juyoung Yoo
2016 Joo Yun Lee
2017 Jeong-A Kim
2018 Suzy Taekyung Kim
2019 Soojung Hyun
2020 Jiyoung Lee
2021 Joohee Kim
2022 Youngshin Yook
2023 Hyunsoo Kim

### Kim Family Fund AKAA Senior Research Fellowship

2021 Jiyoung Lee
2022 Jinyoung Koh
2023 Joohee Kim

### AKAA-Ran Hwang Fund

2022 Jiyoung Lee
2023 Jiyoung Lee

## Closing Message from the Chairperson of the AHL Foundation



I am pleased to greet you as the Chairperson of the AHL Foundation, which is giving dreams and hope to many young people trying to find the meaning of existence in New York, the home of art.

As the Foundation enters its 21st year, it has established itself as an organization that provides support to both artists and art-loving New Yorkers.

The history of the Award is being rewritten with the establishment of the AHL Foundation Gallery, a space that will play a role in publicizing works that may otherwise be buried among artists to the world. Art Classes have been continued for over 10 years to the general public who love art.

Baekbeom Kim Gu empathized, ‘The only thing I want to have is the power of culture. Culture allows us to be satisfied with what we have and to love others,’

Recently, it was a miracle that Lim Yun-chan won two Gramophone Awards, the most prestigious classical music award, and a few days ago, I got goosebumps watching author Han Kang win the

Nobel Prize in Literature.

Considering the fact that movies and dramas have already established themselves as the world’s best content for several years, it seems that Korea is now asserting its status as the world’s cultural leader.

There are already many great artists in the art field, but I hope that through the cooperation of our foundation, we can get a little closer to that dream.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you who took the time to brighten this event and assist us today, to the writers who are always struggling with the intangible being called creativity, and to the president and board members who worked hard for the gala. I am confident that today’s meeting, sincerity, and love will never be in vain.

Thank you.

Chairperson of Board  
Young Sook Park

# Congratulations on 21st Annual Benefit Gala and Award Ceremony to AHL Foundation!

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